

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

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FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6039

S E C R E T TANANARIVE 0268

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, EAID, MA, US

SUBJ: NASA STATION NEGOTIATIONS

BEGIN SUMMARY: I PROPOSE SHIFT IN TACTICS FOR NEGOTIATING EXTENSION NASA STATION IN EFFORT OBTAIN EARLY MALAGASY AGREEMENT. NEW APPROACH WOULD, HOWEVER, LEAVE DOOR OPEN TO DRAGGING ON NEGOTIATIONS IF DESIRABLE TO AVOID NEGATIVE MALAGASY DECISION. END SUMMARY.

1. CERTAIN DEVELOPMENTS (AS EXPLAINED PARAS 2 AND 4 BELOW) LEAD US PROPOSE SHIFT IN TACTICS FOR THE NASA STATION NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOMR. I PROPOSE MAKE APPROACH TO MINTERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT GEN ANDRIAMHAZO DESIGNED TO TRY BRING ABOUT EARLY GOMR AGREEMENT TO EXTENSION OF STATION, BUT LEAVING DOOR OPEN TO FURTHER DRAGGING OUT OF NEGOTIATIONS IF THAT PROVES DESIRABLE TO AVOID NEGATIVE MALAGASY DECISION.

2. WE UNDERSTAND NASA NEEDS MAKE RELATIVELY EARLY DECISION AS TO WHETHER SPECIAL EQUIPMENT SENT TO MADAGASCAR STATION FOR USE IN CONNECTION WITH LAUNCHING OF IMPORTANT WEATHER SATELLITES OVER NEXT FEW MONTHS SHOULD REMAIN HERE OR BE MOVED ELSEWHERE BEFORE LAUNCHINGS TO ENSURE NO DISRUPTION OF OPERATIONS RELATING TO THOSE SATELLITES.

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3. I PROPOSE ASK ANDRIAMHAZO FOR HIS FRANK VIEW AS TO WHETHER

WE CAN COUNT ON STATION REMAINING HERE OR WHETHER ABOVE EQUIP SHOULD BE MOVED ELSEWHERE. IN THIS CONTEXT I WOULD STATE THAT EARLY CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENT ON EXTENSION OF STATION WOULD GIVE NASA FIRM ASSURANCE IT NEEDS.

4. MALAGASY DIRECTOR OF RAILWAYS RAYMOND RANAIVOARIVELO CALLED ON ME 28FEB TO ASK WHETHER OR NOT U.S. INTENDS EXTEND RAILROAD LOAN TO MADAGASCAR. HE HAD UNDERSTOOD DURING VISIT TO WASH LAST NOV THAT DECISION WOULD BE FAVORABLE, AND POINTS TO DESIRABILITY OF EARLY CONCLUSION OF LOAN AGREEMENT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF APR-OCT DRY SEASON FOR CONSTRUCTION WORK. I TOLD HIM I WOULD CHECK WITH WASH ON PRESENT STATUS OF LOAN PROPOSAL AND LET HIM KNOW.

5. I PROPOSE TAKE FOLLOWING LINE WITH ANDRIAMAHAZO ON RAILROAD LOAN: IN RESPONSE APPROACH BY HIS DIRECTOR RAILWAYS, WASH HAS INFORMED US RAILROAD LOAN HAS BEEN COMPLETELY APPROVED. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF SERIOUSLY ADVERSE EFFECT UPON FUTURE CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR AID IF MALAGASY DECISION ON EXTENSION OF NASA AGREEMENT SHOULD BE NEGATIVE, WASH DOES NOT FEEL IT CAN PROCEED WITH LOAN AGREEMENT UNTIL THERE IS ASSURANCE OF AGREEMENT ON EXTENSION OF NASA STATION. THUS, EARLY MALAGASY DECISION ON STATION WOULD ENABLE US PROCEED WITH RAILROAD LOAN. IN ANY EVENT, IF STATION NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD DRAG INTO FY-75, IT WOULD BE VERY PROBLEMATIC WHETHER U.S. COULD PROCEED WITH RAILROAD LOAN BECAUSE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY PROBLEMS.

6. I WOULD THEN PROCEED TO TELL ANDRIAMAHAZO THAT, TO FACILITATE EARLY GOMR DECISION ON STATION, I AM AUTHORIZED DOUBLE RENTAL OFFER FOR 1973 AND SUCCEEDING YEARS FROM 34,600 DOLLARS TO 69,200 DOLLARS PER YEAR. FYI: THIS WOULD STILL LEAVE MARGIN WITHIN ULTIMATE NEGOTIATING LIMIT OF \$100,000 PER YEAR FOR MANEUVERABILITY IF IT PROVES DESIRABLE DRAG NEGOTIATIONS OUT TO AVOID NEGATIVE MALAGASY DECISION. END FYI.

7. I WOULD ALSO MAKE IT CLEAR TO ANDRIAMAHAZO THAT WE HAVE NO MEANS OF IMPROVING SYMBOLIC GESTURE FOR STATION'S PAST USE OF LAND BEYOND OFFER OF EQUIPMENT PACKAGE ALREADY MADE. IN THIS

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CONTEXT I WOULD MAKE USE OF STATE 018943 INFO TO MAKE ANDRIAMAHAZO AWARE OF OTHER EQUIP AND MATERIALS FURNISHED IN PAST. IN ADDITION, I WOULD ENSURE HE UNDERSTANDS ABOUT STATION'S ANNUAL \$500,000 PAYMENT TO PTT (WHICH FALLS UNDER HIS MINISTRY), OTHER FINANCIAL INPUTS INTO MALAGASY ECONOMY, AND COST OF TRAINING FOR MALAGASIZATION WHICH STATION DIRECTOR PUTS AT OVER \$500,000.

8. IF DEPT PERCEIVES NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPROACH, I SHALL SEEK EARLY APPOINTMENT WITH ANDRIAMAHAZO.

MENDENHALL

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